



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
JAMES D. NICE, CHIEF OF POLICE

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| NUMBER P-2011-055 | EFFECTIVE DATE October 31, 2011 | RESCINDS P09-055 Issued 12-23-09 |
| SUBJECT Emergency Vehicle Response Procedure | | ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief James D. Nice |

I. POLICY

Officers are to respond to an emergency call with due regard for the safety of all persons. It is important to respond quickly and efficiently, however, no assignment shall be of such importance, and no task shall be expedited with such emphasis, that the principles of safety become secondary. All emergency vehicle operations shall be conducted in strict accordance with existing statutes and ordinances.

II. DEFINITION

Emergency call – A call to duty including, but not limited to, communications from citizens, police dispatchers, and personal observations of **inherently dangerous** situations that demand an immediate response.

Emergency vehicleⁱ – For purposes of this procedure, an emergency vehicle is a clearly marked Akron Police vehicle with overhead lights and sirens.

III. PROCEDURE

A. EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSES

1. Officers are to respond to an emergency call immediately, using overhead lights and siren.
2. Emergency calls include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Officer in need of immediate assistance.
 - b. Crimes in progress that the officer has reason to believe could or has resulted in death or serious bodily injury.
 - c. Accidents, fires, injuries, or any event where human life may be in jeopardy.
 - d. Willful fleeing incidents.
3. Examples of calls that are **NOT** considered emergency calls include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Alarms of uninhabited buildings.
 - b. Property crimes that pose no threat to persons.

October 31, 2011

- c. When officers are on scene of an emergency call and have notified the dispatcher that the situation is already under control.
4. While the use of warning lights, without a siren, may be tactically efficient when responding to certain emergency calls, the practice is extremely dangerous, and requires the maximum care and alertness on the part of the operator of a police vehicle. Officers using only warning lights must yield the right of way to all traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian. The decision to utilize warning lights, without a siren, rests with the individual officer.

B. RADIO TRAFFIC FOR EMERGENCY CALLS

1. If necessary, officers may request that the channel be held. The dispatcher will announce that all nonemergency traffic is restricted.
2. When an officer initiates a Signal 5 the dispatcher will restrict all nonemergency traffic and request the nature of the Signal 5.
3. During a Signal 21 the dispatcher will announce the unit and location and repeat the announcement once. All radio traffic is limited to the Signal 21 until the channel is cleared.
4. Officers on scene of an emergency call, where radio traffic is being restricted, shall notify the dispatcher when the situation is under control and the channel can be released for regular radio traffic.

By Order Of,



James D. Nice
Chief of Police

Date October 13, 2011

¹ Ohio Revised Code Number 4511.041